

Cover Sheet

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1. Background and context

- 1.1 Partners in Outer Hebrides have a strong established history of working together to tackle antisocial behaviour. The purpose of this document is to set out partners shared understanding of antisocial behaviour, the priorities that require to be addressed and the actions that will be taken over the next five years to help prevent and tackle antisocial behaviour.
- 1.2 Antisocial behaviour is a complex, multi-faceted issue and requires a strong partnership approach to prevention, intervention, and enforcement where necessary. Perceptions, experiences, individual circumstances, and vulnerabilities can impact on victims of Antisocial behaviour, perpetrators and the wider community. It is increasingly understood that complex health and socioeconomic factors can influence anti-social behaviour.

- 1.3 The Antisocial Behaviour Strategy aims to contribute to the Community Planning vision of improving the quality of life for all in the Outer Hebrides by ensuring equal access to opportunities and services to meet people's needs. To do this, the Comhairle and its community planning partners adopt a person-centred approach encompassing trauma informed practice, focusing on prevention of antisocial behaviour, early and effective interventions and robust enforcement where necessary. The approach is founded upon a clear appreciation that if left unchecked, antisocial behaviour can escalate into more serious acts of criminality or disorder.
- 1.4 Building on this approach the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2024-29 aims to ensure that:
- the impact of disorder, domestic noise, litter and the illegal disposal of waste is reduced across the Outer Hebrides.
 - responsible behaviour in relation to fire safety and the use of alcohol and drugs is promoted and improved across the Outer Hebrides.
 - residents across the Outer Hebrides are aware of the services and support available to address antisocial behaviour.

2. What is antisocial behaviour?

- 2.1 Antisocial behaviour is currently defined by Section 143 of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, which states that a person engages in antisocial conduct if they "Act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress; or pursue a course of conduct that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress to at least one person not of the same household". The legislation requires that "conduct includes speech; and a course of conduct must involve conduct on at least two occasions."
- 2.2 It should be recognised that the above definition requires consideration alongside any associated legislation and statutory guidance.

3. Root causes of antisocial behaviour

- 3.1 To better prevent and address antisocial behaviour, there needs to be an understanding of the – often complex – root causes that can lead to this antisocial behaviour.
- Impact of mental health
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Poverty
 - Stigma and stereotypes
 - Housing
 - Covid-19 pandemic

These are discussed further in the 2023 document "Reviewing Scotland's Approach to Antisocial Behaviour" A report by the Scottish Community Safety Network and the Scottish Government.

[Reviewing Scotland's Approach to Antisocial Behaviour](#)

4. Legislative framework

4.1 The Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 is the primary legislation for dealing with antisocial behaviour in Scotland, however as antisocial behaviour covers such a wide spectrum of behaviours this is supported by other legislation including:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (as amended in 2014)
- Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000
- Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007: Code of Practice
- Equality Act 2010
- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- Care and Justice (Scotland) Act 2024
- Data Protection Act 1998
- General Data Protection Regulation 2016

5. Strategic framework

5.1 Part One of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 places a statutory duty on the Local Authority and the Chief Constable of Police Scotland to prepare an antisocial Behaviour Strategy.

5.2 “Promoting positive outcomes: working together to prevent Antisocial Behaviour in Scotland 2009” is the Scottish Government’s national framework which established four pillars as providing the basis for a comprehensive response to antisocial behaviour:

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Enforcement
- Rehabilitation

5.3 **Prevention:** requires foresight and planning in terms of taking measures which are likely to create a physical and social environment where antisocial behaviour is less likely to arise. Such measures can start before the antisocial behaviour is evident through a programme of proactive elements such as CCTV and a strong focus on education, support, community engagement and the creation of strong sustainable family environments.

5.4 **Intervention:** Early and effective intervention includes putting in place measures that will help to address problems at the earliest opportunity both in relation to individuals and communities. A variety of approaches and services from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies are needed to provide the choices and chances required to offer opportunities to divert people away from antisocial behaviour.

5.5 **Enforcement:** Enforcement should be considered when effective interventions have been tried, failed, or deemed not appropriate. Enforcement requires to be appropriate, proportionate, timely, and supported by intervention, education, support, and rehabilitation.

- 5.6 **Rehabilitation:** There is a need to understand and assess the needs of individuals and communities in order to provide long-term solutions. An understanding and perception of the impact of antisocial behaviour is necessary to fully break the cycle of offending and to provide the focus for services to fully integrate to deliver long-term solutions.
- 5.7 Locally, through the antisocial Behaviour Implementation Group, the council and its community safety partners identified six antisocial behaviour priority themes to be the focus of this strategy. These are:
- Alcohol and substance related antisocial behaviour.
 - Fire safety in relation to antisocial behaviour.
 - Disorder, rowdy or undesirable behaviour.
 - Domestic Noise.
 - Environmental antisocial behaviour - Littering and fly-tipping (including inappropriate disposal of household waste and other items); Graffiti, vandalism, and property damage.
 - Deliberate Fire-setting.
- 5.8. The themes noted above have been used to inform the outcomes which the strategy will pursue, detailed in section 7.

6. The approach to antisocial behaviour

- 6.1 All partners involved in the development of this strategy understand the need to work collaboratively to achieve the common goals of keeping local communities safe and making the public feel safe. The Comhairle and its community safety partners recognise that tackling antisocial behaviour is not the responsibility of one single agency, and collectively this strategy provides a commitment to ensuring that effective information sharing and joint working approaches will continue to prevent problems and ensure effective early interventions. Prior to implementation the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy requires formal approval from the Comhairle 's full Council and Police Scotland.
- 6.2 This antisocial Behaviour Strategy provides the framework by which community safety partners will work together to tackle antisocial behaviour across the Outer Hebrides over the next five years. It builds upon the strong partnership arrangements which are already in place and have a strong track record in delivering valuable services in the Outer Hebrides.
- 6.3 Strong partnership working is evident throughout this strategy and action plan, which can be found in Appendix 1, in the form of initiatives involving community safety partners such as Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, as well as Comhairle services and other agencies.
- 6.5 The **Community Safety Board** delivers the Comhairle's statutory function under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 of approving local police and fire plans and scrutinising their implementation. Any community safety issues can be reported to the board for political oversight or approval.

7. Outcomes

7.1 The strategy intends to deliver the following outcomes:

- **People behave responsibly in their attitude to alcohol and are educated in relation to the impact of drugs**, with actions including reducing the impact of alcohol related antisocial behaviour by promoting responsible behaviour in the sale of alcohol amongst retailers and delivering drug education workshops to schools in areas assessed as at highest risk.
- **People behave responsibly in relation to fire safety**, with actions including the delivery of education programs to raise awareness of fire risk from refuse related antisocial behaviour.
- **Domestic noise has less impact on people's lives**, with actions including early intervention and joint working with residents responsible for domestic noise to prevent escalation.
- **Litter and household waste is reduced, improving the safety and attractiveness of communities**, with the development of preventative approaches to encourage the safe disposal of household waste.
- **People can live safely in communities, with levels of disorder reduced**, with the use of CCTV to identify those responsible for disorder and antisocial behaviour, the delivery of targeted diversionary activities to prevent and reduce levels of disorder, and the delivery of intensive support to address problematic behaviours.
- **Services for people affected by antisocial behaviour are easily accessible**, with actions including the regular promotion of services for people affected by antisocial behaviour including mediation and Victim Support.

8. Equalities

- 8.1 The Comhairle and its community safety partners are committed to encouraging equal opportunities and will work to actively remove any barriers that stop the public getting involved and ensure that everyone has equal access and an opportunity to take part.
- 8.2 To ensure the public are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged in any way. An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on this strategy to identify and mitigate any negative impacts and seek opportunities to promote equality.
- 8.3 In relation to the Fairer Scotland Duty a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment will also be completed.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

9.1 Effectively monitoring and evaluation of the strategy is essential to assess success and ensuring that the required objectives are delivered. An annual review will be carried out to identify the success of the measures in relation to the actions and an annual report will be submitted each year to the Community Safety Board, advising whether:

- the priorities and actions set out in the strategy are being effectively progressed.
- the actions are delivering the strategic objectives.
- any requirement to review actions or measures.

Appendix 1: Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan

Outcome 1: People behave responsibly in their attitude towards alcohol and are educated in relation to the impact of drugs.

Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
1.1	Promote responsible behaviour in the sale of alcohol amongst retailers.		Annual	CNES Licensing Officers, supported by Police Scotland	
1.2	Partner agencies to co-ordinate and deliver interventions/diversionary activities in identified areas to target groups responsible for antisocial behaviour.		Annual	Youth Justice Subgroup	
1.3	Develop annual programme of communication/activities to promote positive behaviours in relation to alcohol consumption among young people plus drug related harm and drug related deaths.		Annual	Alcohol and Drug Partnership	
1.4	Deliver drug and alcohol education workshops to schools in areas assessed as at highest risk.		Annual	Police Scotland – Community Campus Officer	

Ref.	Measures	Baseline	Target	Responsibility	Progress
2.1	The number of reported public drinking incidents by young people under aged 18 public drinking	Establish baseline	Monitor against baseline	Police Scotland	
2.2	The number of drug and alcohol education workshops delivered to schools			Education	

Outcome 2: Domestic noise has less impact on people's lives.

Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
3.1	Early intervention and joint working with residents responsible for domestic noise to remind them of potential consequences	2024/2025	Annual	HHP/Environmental Health	
3.2	Provide advice and assistance to those experiencing this type of antisocial behaviour	2024/2025	Annual	HHP/Environmental Health	

Ref.	Measures	Baseline	Target	Responsibility	Progress
4.1	Number of noise complaints in a calendar year.	Establish baseline	Reduce against baseline	HHP/Environmental Health	

Outcome 3: Litter and household and agricultural waste is reduced, improving the safety and attractiveness of communities.

Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
5.1	Develop promotional materials that will raise awareness of the financial costs of littering and the impact this has on the ability to deliver other council services	2024/2025	Annual	Environmental Health	
5.2	Develop and implement prevention and early intervention programmes within targeted communities to encourage local residents to dispose of household and agricultural waste responsibly, appropriately and safely	2024/2025	Annual	Environmental Health	

Ref.	Measures	Baseline	Target	Responsibility	Progress
6.1	The number of fly-tipping occurrences within the council area.	Establish baseline	Reduce against baseline	Cleansing/ Environmental Health	
6.2	The number of Fixed Penalty Notices(FPNs) issued for inappropriate disposal of litter and household waste. (Environmental Services)	Establish baseline	Monitor against baseline	Environmental Health	

Outcome 4: People can live safely in communities, with levels of disorder reduced.

Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
7.1					
7.2	<p>Deliver a range of actions to tackle reported incidents of antisocial behaviour relating to disorder, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise deployable CCTV to identify those responsible, discourage antisocial behaviour disorder and provide public reassurance. • Targeted and structured diversionary activities delivered across the Outer Hebrides. 	2024/2025	Annual	Youth Justice Subgroup	
7.3	Provide intensive housing support to families displaying anti- social behaviour, and other housing management issues, that require input to help them to sustain their tenancy.	2024/2025	Annual	HHP/	

Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
7.4	Providing advice and support to private landlords where their tenants are displaying anti- social behaviour	2024/2025	Annual	Environmental Health	

Ref.	Measures	Baseline	Target	Responsibility	Progress
8.1	Total number of youth offending/ASB incidents for those aged under 18 discussed at the Youth Justice Strategy Group (YJSG).	Establish baseline	To be in line with national average	Youth Justice Sungroup	
8.2	Number of adult crimes (aged 18 and over) (antisocial behaviour offences) which include: - Breach of the Peace	Establish baseline	Reduce against baseline	Police Scotland	
	Drunk and incapable	Establish baseline			
	Licensing offences	Establish baseline			
	Drinking in public	Establish baseline			
8.3	Number of ASB Vandalism incidents received by the Police.	Establish baseline	Reduce against baseline	Police Scotland	

Outcome 5: Services for people affected by antisocial behaviour are easily accessible.

Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
9.1	Promote awareness, availability and encourage uptake of Victim Support Service to victims of antisocial behaviour.	2024/2025	Annual	Victim Support Scotland	
9.2	Continue promoting awareness of ASB services including mediation service to all partners and stakeholders to encourage uptake and reporting.	2024/2025	Annual	Partners	
9.3	Provide advice and assistance to those affected.	2024/2025	Annual	HHP/Environmental Health	
9.4	Promote the availability of antisocial behaviour performance information to the public, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social Behaviour Annual Charter Return (Scottish Housing Regulator) • Local Police Plan • Local Scottish Fire and Rescue Plan 	2024/2025	Annual	Partners	
9.5	Victims of youth offences to have their views taken when completing reports for SCRA.	2024/2025	Annual	Police Scotland/Social Work	

Ref.	Measures	Baseline	Target	Responsibility	Progress
10.1	Number of referrals and percentage from the Outer Hebrides for ASB to Victim Support Number and percentage of referrals for ASB who engaged with the service to Victim Support		No target for monitoring purposes only	Victim Support Scotland	

Appendix 2: Links to other plans and strategies

The strategy is aligned with a range of other key strategies and plans including:

Outer Hebrides Council Community Plan

Outer Hebrides Local Housing Strategy

The strategy sets out how HHP and its partners will ensure the Outer Hebrides has good quality housing of the right tenure, type and size in the right places to meet the range of needs and aspirations of residents.

Outer Hebrides Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan

The Outer Hebrides Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan sets out the strategic planning and development of community justice services. This comprises of service delivery that enables rehabilitation of people who re-offend by tackling the root causes of why they offend and, by reducing the stigma that causes stress and social isolation for both them and their families.

Police Scotland - Joint Strategy for Policing 2023-2026

The local police plan for 2023-2026 sets out the key priorities of protecting communities, safeguarding citizens, and enhancing services to deliver the central aim of improving the safety and wellbeing of the people and communities in the Outer Hebrides.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Strategic Plan 2022-2025

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan sets out the intended outcomes and priorities from 2022-2025, in line with the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2022. These high-level outcomes cover Prevention and Protection, Response, Innovation and Modernisation, Climate Change, Effective Governance and Performance, Partnership and People.

Victim Support Scotland Strategy 2021-2026

The Victim Support Scotland Strategy 2021-2026 aims to empower people affected by crime by providing high quality, outcome focussed support and care to all those who need it and building productive partnerships aimed at improving the experiences of those affected by crime.